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S. RES. 250

Commending the people and Government of Romania, on the occasion of the visit of Romanian President Ion Iliescu to the United States, for the important progress they have made with respect to economic reform and democratic development, as well as for the strong relationship between Romania and the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 23, 2003

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mrs. LANDRIEU, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Commending the people and Government of Romania, on the occasion of the visit of Romanian President Ion Iliescu to the United States, for the important progress they have made with respect to economic reform and democratic development, as well as for the strong relationship between Romania and the United States.

Whereas, in 1995, Romania joined with the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to provide assistance to the Stabilization Force (SFOR) deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina to support peace, security, and freedom in the western Balkans;

Whereas, in 1999, Romania joined with the United States and NATO member countries to provide assistance for Operation Allied Force to use military force in order to halt the genocide, known as ethnic cleansing, that was taking place in Kosovo;

Whereas, after the conclusion of Operation Allied Force, Romania provided support to democracy activists from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in their successful efforts to end the rule of Yugoslav dictator Slobodan Milosevic, and also provided support to NATO stabilization forces deployed in Kosovo Force (KFOR);

Whereas, following the terrorist attacks upon the United States in September 2001, the Government of Romania immediately expressed its sympathy for Americans and others killed in the attacks and pledged its full support in fighting the war on terror;

Whereas, on September 19, 2001, the Romanian Parliament voted to open Romanian territory and airspace to United States Armed Forces involved in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan;

Whereas thousands of American aircraft flew through Romanian airspace during the combat phase of Operation Enduring Freedom, and continue to do so as part of peace-building efforts;

Whereas, beginning on June 2002, Romanian aircraft flew Romanian soldiers to serve in Afghanistan as part of the forces involved in Operation Enduring Freedom and the International Security Assistance Force, and over 500 elite Romanian soldiers are currently stationed in Afghanistan;

Whereas Romania stood with the United States as a vital member of the international coalition in Operation Iraqi Freedom by offering diplomatic, political, and military support;

Whereas, in a January 31, 2003, letter to President George W. Bush, President Ion Iliescu of Romania stated that “Romania can understand that aggressive dictators cannot be appeased or ignored, but always be opposed. Romanians indeed know the value of freedom and living in peace. They have seen the face of evil embodied in communism and deeply share your conviction, expressed in the State of the Union address, that ‘free people will set the course of history’ ”;

Whereas, on February 12, 2003, the Romanian Parliament voted to open Romanian territory and airspace to United States Armed Forces carrying out Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas hundreds of American aircraft flew through Romanian airspace and landed at Romanian airfields during the combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom from May to July 2003;

Whereas thousands of United States soldiers were stationed and transported into the Iraq theatre of operations from Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, and the neighboring Black Sea port of Constantza was also used in the fall of 2002 and spring of 2003 for rotating United States Armed Forces and equipment in and out of the Balkans;

Whereas, beginning on March 12, 2003, Romania began deploying military forces to Iraq to assist in building security, peace, and democracy, and over 750 Romanian soldiers are currently stationed in Iraq;

Whereas the Government of Romania has spent more than \$160,000,000 during the past two years to fund its participation in SFOR, KFOR, Operation Enduring Freedom, the International Security Assistance Force, and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas, together with Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, Romania successfully achieved the military, economic, and political reforms necessary to be invited, at the November 2002 summit meeting in Prague of the North Atlantic Council, to join the NATO alliance;

Whereas, in his historic address at Piata Revolutiei on November 23, 2002, President Bush told the Romanian people that “Romania has made a historic journey. Instead of hatred, you have chosen tolerance. Instead of destructive rivalry with your neighbors, you have chosen reconciliation. Instead of state control, you have chosen free markets and the rule of law. And instead of dictatorship, you have built a proud and working democracy.”; and

Whereas, on May 8, 2003, the Senate voted 96 to 0 to approve the resolution of advice and consent to the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) appreciates the support expressed by the
3 people of Romania for strong and vibrant relations
4 between the United States and Romania;

5 (2) recognizes the steps the Government of Ro-
6 mania has taken and continues to take in economic,

1 political, and social reforms, including reforms to
2 improve protections of the rights of minorities and
3 to promote awareness and understanding of the Hol-
4 ocaust;

5 (3) commends Romania for its leadership and
6 commitment in promoting regional peace and secu-
7 rity in the Balkan and Black Sea regions;

8 (4) values the participation of a significant
9 number of Romanian troops and civilian experts in
10 Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi
11 Freedom, the permission granted by the Government
12 of Romania for the United States to use Romanian
13 airspace and territory, and the deployment of Roma-
14 nian military forces in support of Operation Endur-
15 ing Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, all of
16 which have been important contributions to the glob-
17 al war on terror and serve as a tangible and ongoing
18 demonstration of Romania's commitment as an ally
19 of the United States;

20 (5) supports further cooperation between the
21 United States and Romania in the process of stabi-
22 lizing and reconstructing Iraq, including the utiliza-
23 tion of Romania's experience emerging from a Com-
24 munist dictatorship and creating a functioning de-
25 mocracy and free market economy; and

1 (6) welcomes Romanian President Ion Iliescu to
2 the United States and looks forward to expanded po-
3 litical, diplomatic, economic, and military coopera-
4 tion between Romania and the United States.

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